

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2640

E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJECT: CSCE AND WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION

GENEVA FOR USDEL CSCE

REF: A. USNATO 2591
B. STATE 10968

1. MAY 12 SPC DISCUSSION OF CSCE/PR PAPER REVEALED CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF DANISH PROPOSED DRAFT (TEXT BELOW) ATTEMPTING TO RE-CAST AND REPLACE FIRST FIVE PARAGRAPHS OF IS DRAFT.
2. MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE COVERED IN DISCUSSION OF POINTS IN INITIAL PARAGRAPHS WAS NEED FOR CARRYING POLITICAL DETENTE REPRESENTED BY CSCE INTO MILITARY SHPERE. FRENCH WISHED REMOVE THIS LINKAGE, WITH US PRINCIPAL ADVOCATE FOR ITS INCLUSION. FRENCH PROPOSED EITHER CHANGE IN PRESENT VERSIONS THAT WOULD BETTER MASK DEFINITE LINKAGE, OR SEPARATE PARAGRAPH WHICH WOULD BE BALID FOR FOURTEEN BUT NOT FOR FRENCH IN PUBLIC COMMENTARY ON THIS POINT.
3. DISCUSSION ON WORDING OF DRAFT ALSO PROMPTED REMINDER THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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SPC PAPER WOULD PROVIDE NEITHER IRONCLAD GUIDANCE NOR CONSTRAINTS ON SPECIFIC DETAILS OF HOW ALLIED SPOKESMEN WOULD DEAL WITH CSCE OUTCOME. RATHER, PAPER SHOULD BE VIEWED AS ATTEMPT TO SET BROAD PARAMETERS AND TO AVOID CONTRADICTORY

INTERPRETATIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, NORWEGIAN REP (SELMER) SAID HE HAD READ ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN'S PRESENTATION ON CSCE TO HOUSE COMMITTEE WHICH HE THOUGHT SET GOOD EXAMPLE OF BALANCED PUBLIC APPROACH TO CSCE.

4. GIVEN FAVORABLE RECEPTION TO DANISH ATTEMPT TO REDRAFT FIRST FIVE PARAGRAPHS, SPC CHAIRMAN (KASTL) ASKED DANISH REP (VILLADSEN) TO ATTEMPT RE-CAST OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF PAPER ON BASIS OF WRITTEN AND OTAL INPUTS TO DATE. DANISH REP AGREED TO WORK WITH IS IN PREPARING REVISED DRAFT. DRAFT WILL BE FORWARDED TO DEPARTMENT FOR COMMENT AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

5. BEGIN TEXT:

1. BY SIGNING THE FINAL DOCUMENTS AT THE THIRD STAGE OF THE CSCE THE ALLIED COUNTRIES WILL CONFIRM THAT THEY CONSIDER THE OUTCOME OF THE CONFERENCE TO BE A SATISFACTORY STEP IN THE PROCESS OF DETENTE, WHICH RAISES THE HOPE OF FURTHER IMPROVEMENT IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS, ALSO IN THE MILITARY SHPERE.

THE ALLIES CAN QUITE JUSTIFIABLY POINT TO A NUMBER OF SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS, WHICH THEY HAVE ACHIEVED IN ALL THE FIELDS EXAMINED BY THE CONFERENCE.

IN ORDER TO AVOID UNDUE OPTIMISM, BOTH THE SHORTCOMINGS OF THE CONFERENCE AND THE FACT, THAT IS IN NO WAY DIMINISHES THE NEED FOR MAINTENANCE OF AN ADEQUATE MILITARY DEFENCE - WHICH IS BOTH A PREREQUSITE FOR THE FURTHER PURSUIT OF DETENTE AND FOR THE SECURITY OF THE ALLIANCE - SHOULD BE POINTED OUT.

2. THE SOVIET UNION AND HER ALLIES CAN ON THEIR SIDE BE EXPECTED TO PRESENT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CSCE AS A TOTAL TURNING POINT IN EAST/WEST RELATIONS.

THEY WILL HIGHLIGHT THOSE POINTS THEY FIND MOST IN THEIR FAVOUR AND TRY TO MINIMIZE OR MISCONSTURE THOSE WHICH ARE NOT.

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THEY MAY ATTEMPT TO USE THE RESULTS OF THE CSCE TO WEAKEN THE POLITICAL DETERMINATION OF THE WEST TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE DEFENCE.

3. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THE MANNER IN WHICH THE OUTCOME OF THE CSCE IS PRESENTED BY GOVERNMENTS AND BY THE MEDIA IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE WILL BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. SINCE SITUATIONS WILL VARY WIDELY FROM COUNTRY TO COUNTRY, NO ATTEMPT SHOULD BE MADE TO AGREE ON A SINGLE LINE OF PUBLIC PRESENTATION. IT WILL, HOWEVER, BE DESIRABLE TO AVOID DISCORD IN THE PRESENTATION OF BASIC ISSUES, AND THERE IS THEREFORE ADVANTAGES IN HAVING AN AGREED

BODY OF MATERIAL AND ARGUMENTS TO BE DRAWN ON AT
WILL ACCORDING TO CIRCUMSTANCES.
END TEXT.
BRUCE.

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